

Euinton men, *of Luton*, *who served during* **World War 1**



Uncles to our Roger & Barry Euinton:

(Brothers) **Harry, Berti, and Harold Euinton.**

(Brothers) **Hedley, Ernest, and Arthur Euinton.**

(Cousin to the above) **Leonard Euinton.**

Edited & compiled by
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of Teignmouth, England

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Harry Ernest Euinton

(Eldest son of Henry John Euinton & Elizabeth Allen
Brother to Berti, Harold, and Wilfred Euinton
cousin to Arthur, Ernest, and Hedley Euinton)

Date of Birth: 17 September 1882
52 Oak Road, Luton, Bedfordshire

Occupation before war: Straw hat, field hand...

Date of Death: 23 July 1952

Place of Death: Luton, Bedfordshire, England

Service: British Army

Service years: 1914 – 1920

Service Number & Regiment: 28624, Royal Field Artillery

Rank: Gunner (TF)

Medals/Awards: Victory Medal, British War Medal

Killed in Action

Berti Euinton

(Son of Henry John Euinton & Elizabeth Allen
Brother to Harry, Harold, & Wilfred Euinton
cousin to Arthur, and Hedley Euinton)

Date of Birth: 1893

48 Park Road West

Luton, Bedfordshire

Occupation before war: Straw hat worker

Date of Death: 29 May 1915

Place of Death: France (Chocques Military Cemetery)

Service Number & Regiment: 2720, B Company, 24th Battalion County of London Regiment (The Queen's)

Rank: Private

Medals/Awards: Victory Medal, British War medal, and the 1914-15 Mons star medal



THE LATE PTE. BERT EUINTON, of 48, Park-road West, Luton, who lost his life in the charge of the gallant 24th London Regiment (Queen's). He was wounded on May 26th, and died three days later.

Luton Culture listing, was in the Pope, straw hat also a well-known

The Luton News , 1st July 1915

Pte Bert (Bertie) Euinton, 2720, B Company, 24th Battalion County of London Regiment ("The Queen's"), died on May 29th, 1915, from wounds sustained in action three days earlier.

The son of Henry and Lizzie Euinton, of 48 Park Road West [now Strathmore Avenue], Luton, he was the third of three cousins to die on the battlefield in just over six weeks.

Pte Arthur Euinton, 2731, 3rd Battalion Royal Fusiliers, was killed in action at Hill 60 on April 14th, 1915. A Luton lad, his parents lived in London.

Then on May 26th, the day Pte Bert Euinton was wounded, Pte Hedley Euinton, 2726, 1/24th Battalion London Regiment, was also killed in action. He had joined the Londons with Bert and was the son of Mr Alfred Euinton, of 19 Bailey Street, Luton.

Both Bert and Hedley are included on the Luton Roll of Honour.

Before enlisting in early September, 1914, Bert Euinton worked for straw hat manufacturer Mr Pope. He had also achieved distinction as an athlete. In 1901 the Euinton family, including Bert's three brothers and four sisters, were living at 13 Gloucester Road, Luton.

In a letter to Bert Euinton's family, Pte Frank Gilder wrote: "I have found out as far as possible what happened to your brother after I left him. We were together in the morning after the charge very early, about 2 o'clock, and he was shot in the head. Although it was a bad wound I didn't think it would be serious. I bandaged him up and laid him down and he said he was comfortable. I was beside him for about four hours, and he fell asleep and then we were shelled and I was separated from him.

"I now gather from another Luton lad (Dan Summerfield) who came up at night to the place where the wounded were that he had brought him [Bert] out all right. I have best reasons to believe he was brought out all right because I only bandaged up one lad who had a wound in his head, and that was Bert, and Dan also found him in the exact place where I had left him."

But Mrs Euinton was later to receive official notification of her son's death, together with his service number.

Harold Victor Euinton

Served in WW1 & WW2

(Son of Henry John Euinton & Elizabeth Allen
Brother to Harry, Berti, and Wilfred Euinton
cousin to Arthur, and Hedley Euinton)

Date of Birth: 29 Aug 1900

Luton, Bedfordshire

5'5", Brown hair, Blue eyes

Service Years: 1914-1920 / 1941

Service: Royal Navy, then transferred to Royal Air Force
/ Royal Air Force

Service Location: Europe

Service Number & Regiment: F 45889, World War 1
/ 1645302, World War 2

Rank: Boy Mechanic (Wireless Operator)

Medal: British War Medal / War Medal 1939-1945, 1939-45 Star

Harold joined up as a youth and learned to operate the wireless radio communication equipment. Harold was not killed in action.

Hedley Euinton

Killed in Action

(Son of Alfred & Hannah Euinton,
brother to Ernest, and Alfred
Cousin to Arthur, Berti, and Harold Victor Euinton)

Date of Birth: 1895

19 Bailey Street
Luton, Bedfordshire

Occupation before war: Brass finisher

Date of Death: 26 May 1915

Place of Death: France (Le Touret Memorial)

Service Number & Regiment: 2726, B Company, 24th Battalion County of London Regiment (The Queen's)

Rank: Private

Medals/Awards: Victory Medal, British War medal,
and the 1914-15 Mons star medal

[The Luton News](#) , 1st July 1915

Pte Hedley Euinton, 2726, 1/24th London Regiment, was killed in action in a charge near Givenchy on May 26th, 1915.

Born at Wingfield in 1895, he was a brass finisher living with Parents Alfred and Hannah at 19 Bailey Street, Luton, at the time of the 1911 Census. He had two younger brothers, Ernest and Alfred, and a toddler sister, Janet,

Hedley was one of three cousins to die on the battlefield within a space of about six weeks. Arthur Euinton, 3rd Royal Fusiliers, was killed in action at Hill 60 on April 14th, 1915, and Bert Euinton, 24th Londons, died on May 29th, 1915, three days after being wounded in action. Pte Arthur Euinton, 2731, 3rd Battalion Royal Fusiliers, was killed in action at Hill 60 on April 14th, 1915. A Luton lad, his parents lived in London.

Both Hedley and Bert are included on the Luton Roll of Honour.

Ernest Charles Euinton

(Son of Alfred & Hannah Euinton,
brother to Hedley, and Alfred
Cousin to Arthur, Berti, and Harold Victor Euinton)

Date of Birth: 1896

19 Bailey Street
Luton, Bedfordshire

Occupation before war: Turner

Date of Death:

Place of Death:

Service: British Army

Service date: 10/1914 – 04/1916

Service Number & Regiment: 1944, Royal Engineers, 3/1st East
Anglian Field Company

Rank: Sapper (private)

Medals/Awards: Victory Medal, British War Medal, Silver War Badge
1914 - 1918

WW1, Royal Engineer tunnelling companies, nicknamed "the Moles", were specialist units of the Corps of Royal Engineers within the British Army, formed to dig attacking tunnels under enemy lines during the First World War. They designed and built the frontline fortifications, creating cover for the infantry and positions for the artillery. It was in the hands of the technically skilled RE's to develop responses to chemical and underground warfare.

In 1915, in response to German mining of British trenches under the then static siege conditions of World War One, the corps formed its own tunnelling companies. Manned by experienced coal miners from across the country, they operated with great success until 1917, when after the fixed positions broke, they built deep dugouts such as the Vampire dugout to protect troops from heavy shelling. By 1 August 1917, it had grown to a total of 295668. It was twelve times bigger than the peacetime establishment.

Arthur Euinton Killed in Action

(Son to Alfred & Hannah Euinton
Brother to Ernest, Alfred, and Janet,
Cousin to Hedley, Ernest, Harry, Berti, and Harold Euinton)

Date of Birth: 1895

19 Bailey Street
Luton, Bedfordshire

Occupation before war: Brass finisher

Date of Death: 14 April 1915

Place of Death: France (Le Touret Memorial)

Service Number & Regiment: 2731, 3rd Battalion Royal Fusiliers

Medals/Awards: Victory Medal, British War medal,
and the 1914-15 Mons star medal

The Luton News , 1st July 1915

[Arthur's cousin] Pte Hedley Euinton, 2726, 1/24th London Regiment, was killed in action in a charge near Givenchy on May 26th, 1915.

Born at Wingfield in 1895, Arthur was a brass finisher living with Parents Alfred and Hannah at 19 Bailey Street, Luton, at the time of the 1911 Census. He had two younger brothers, Ernest and Alfred, and a toddler sister, Janet,

Hedley was one of three cousins to die on the battlefield within a space of about six weeks. Arthur Euinton, 3rd Royal Fusiliers, was killed in action at Hill 60 on April 14th, 1915, and Bert Euinton, 24th Londons, died on May 29th, 1915, three days after being wounded in action. Pte Arthur Euinton, 2731, 3rd Battalion Royal Fusiliers, was killed in action at Hill 60 on April 14th, 1915. A Luton lad, his parents lived in London.

Both Hedley and Bert are included on the Luton Roll of Honour.

Leonard Euinton

Killed in Action

(Married to Edith May Elston,
son of William and Priscilla Euinton)

Date of Birth: 12 Sep 1888

2 Bolton Road,
Luton, Bedfordshire

Occupation before war: Iron moulder at the
Diamond Foundry, Dallow Road

Date of Death: 16 Mar 1917

Place of Death: France (Cambrin Military
Cemetery)

Service Number & Regiment: 32990, 1st
Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment

Rank: Acting Sergeant, Corporal

Medals/Awards: Victory Medal, British War medal,
and the 1914-15 Mons star medal



Acting Sergeant 1st Bedfordshire Regiment.

Leonard Euinton was born on the 12 September 1888 at 2 Bolton Road, Luton and following school was employed as a Moulder by trade. He married Edith May Elston at St. Mathews Church, Hightown on the 29 October 1910 and resided at 57 Boyle Street, they had one child Ruby Olive who was born 1 February 1913.

Leonard enlisted as a wartime volunteer and joined the Bedfordshire Regiment in late 1915. After training he was posted to France as part of the 1st Battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment, part of the 5th Division. He served on the Somme and in late 1916 moved to the Crambrin Sector where he served until his death in March 1917.

The official War Diary of March 1917 states that in the Cambrin Sector the trenches were in a very bad condition due to frost and rain and that Bosch snipers and trench mortars were very active. The Operations Order No 61 issued on the 12 March states that gum boots will be drawn and put on before proceeding to the trenches and that the trenches are

in very bad condition and that greatest precautions must be taken against trench foot.

On the 16 March at about 8pm the enemy attempted a raid on British trenches and it is part of this action that Leonard Euinton was killed along with three other comrades. The official Headquarters report as follows:

REPORT ON ATTEMPTED RAID AT A.28.c.40/45

About 8 pm 16-3-17, enemy opened fire on our front line and support trenches. Two minutes after barrage started, 30-40 enemy were seen trying to get through our wire near BOYAU 5. Our L.G and rifles opened fire and compelled the raiding party to retire.

The Officer on duty in our front line fired two Very Lights (S O S) towards Company Hd Qts. This signal was not observed at Company Hd. Qts by the sentry on duty or by an officer, who, with others was standing in the look-out on the fire step. This was probably due to the intensity of the flashes from the bombardment.

As soon as the bombardment started, Bn. Hd. Qts asked the F C O to have Artillery standing-to, and also to retaliate heavily on enemy front line and NO MAN`S LAND which was complied with. The enemy did not enter our trenches.

An officer`s patrol went out and discovered two dead enemy in our wire. One has been brought in; the other is too badly damaged to move. It is thought that there are other dead in front. Our casualties-caused by enemy bombardment are-2 killed and 4 wounded. (This actually resulted in four fatalities, one of which was Leonard Euinton.) On receipt of your message re expected German raid, all companies stood to, after being warned.

Personel effects taken from the enemy killed are forwarded herewith,including identity disc and pay book and maps.

The Luton News , 5th April 1917

Cpl Leonard Euinton, 32990, 1st Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment, was killed in action in France by a minenwerfer [trench mortar] on March 16th, 1917. He was aged 28.

A chaplain wrote that he had been killed while holding a post in a front trench. His death must have been instantaneous as the part of the trench in which he was on duty was blown in. He was buried the next day in a little cemetery near the line he was defending, in the presence of a number of his comrades.

He was the son of William and Priscilla Euinton, of 68 Baker Street, Luton, and had been employed as an iron moulder at the Diamond Foundry, Dallow Road. He enlisted in the Territorials (Bedfordshire Regiment) a few months before the outbreak of war and was called up for service in August 1914, for some time acting as sergeant-cook. He was trained at Newmarket and Darlington, and went to the Front just before Christmas 1916.

Leonard had married Edith May Rainbow Elston, from Luton, at St Matthew's Church, High Town, on October 29th, 1910. The couple, who lived at 57 Boyle Street, Luton, had a daughter, Ruby Olive, born in February 1913.